

MISSIONARIES AT WORK

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649650101

Missionaries at Work by Georgina A. Gollock

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
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GEORGINA A. GOLLOCK

**MISSIONARIES
AT WORK**

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AT WORK

BY THE
AUTHOR OF 'CANDIDATES IN WAITING'

Georgina A. Gollock

WITH PREFACE
BY THE
REV. H. E. FOX, M.A.
Hon. Sec. C.M.S.

LONDON
CHURCH MISSIONARY SOCIETY
SALISBURY SQUARE, E.C.
1898



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P R E F A C E.

THERE are some books which command attention mainly by the exceptional importance of the topics of which they treat; others by their successful treatment of topics which are common-place. The following pages, it is hoped, will secure interest on both accounts. Although the subjects with which this book deals specially concern a comparatively limited circle of readers, yet by them they must be felt to be of the most sacred importance. When the call to foreign service has been answered by any servant of God, and the months of preparation have passed, and there comes on the soul an ever deepening sense of the tremendous responsibilities of the life work lying before it, there will surely be given a warm welcome to the counsels of an experienced friend peculiarly qualified to help the young Missionary in ordering his future steps along the paths of the Divine Word. The transition from the sheltered surroundings of English life to the perplexing novelties of a foreign country, the special temptations and trials, the difficulties

and dangers which come from contact with people of alien minds and religions, and all the new conditions so little understood at home and often imperfectly realised at first abroad, are so many reasons to enhance the value which it is hoped this handbook will have for every Missionary recruit. Nor by these alone will it be appreciated. It cannot fail to be of use to those who at home have any share in training and fitting Missionary candidates for their future work.

It does not claim to be in any sense an official utterance of the Church Missionary Society; indeed, it is hoped that it may be of use to many beyond the ranks of that body. At the same time, it is due to the writer to say that the book has been read in proof by myself and my brother Secretaries with the sincerest satisfaction, and is heartily commended to our fellow-workers in the Mission-field as likely to supply both before and during the earlier years of the Missionary's life guidance and suggestion which may save many a mistake, and point the way to many a blessing. We hope, however, that it will not be laid aside when once read, but will be kept at hand for frequent reference, and we are confident that, as experience grows, the reasons for some of the counsels and cautions which at first may not have been apparent will produce strong and clear convictions.

Still less does the book claim to supplement

Rules and Regulations which govern the relations of the Missionary with the Society. It takes the form rather of such loving advice as one fellow-worker, bringing forth out of the 'good treasure of the heart,' may freely offer to another. It aims at preserving the happy and helpful idea, often forgotten, which underlies the word 'Society'; active fellowship contributing to the wants of every member and so to the object of all.

A Society is more than a house of business; it is more than a Government Department. It is both, for we are all employed in the 'King's business.' We are all 'servants of the Church' and the Church's Lord. But as members of a Society we are more even than this; and because more, we shall add to the scrupulous accuracy of the merchant, and the loyalty and discipline of the official, the sacred unity and co-operation of a brotherhood. Every part of our work, both in its widest scope and its smallest detail, is consecrated by our community in Christ and with one another. The funds which are given by some; the personal service offered by others; the talents of time, health, intellect, and influence of all, are sacred treasures which belong to our common Lord, and are at His disposal for use when and as He wills to do good to others. Every brother and sister in the Society, whatever place may belong to each, has an appointed work, and the discharge of that work is, in the Lord's sight, a duty of equal

importance for all. For the promised presence of the Master implies an equal sanctity in the life of every servant, and binds each to the other with obligations equally sacred. We at home and those abroad are all one household, and the whole family suffers by the weakness or the failure of even the least of its members. It is the interest of all to maintain at the highest standard the spiritual vitality and efficiency of every one. 'To each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit to profit withal.' With such an object this little book has been written, and it is sent forth with the earnest prayer that its words may be to many a young servant of the Lord not so much 'goads' as 'nails,'—the familiar tent pegs of camp life, in themselves inconspicuous, but of what importance to the stability and comfort of the dweller in tents every eastern traveller knows. Or to change the metaphor, may the gracious thoughts here set forth in 'fitly spoken' words be to very many as 'apples of gold in pictures of silver,' food alike for the soul and the mind.

H. E. FOX,

Hon. Sec. C.M.S.

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